

## Online children's groups

### General points about the resources

#### Prayers

Keep prayers short, as it's harder for children just to listen to your voice than when you're gathered together as a group in prayer. Responsorial and active prayers work well because children are able to participate.

#### Gather

The first, quieter gathering activity can work online. Keep it short.

#### Open the Word

Response stories with actions work well, as everyone is listening for the cues.

#### Talk together

These questions need time and space and open discussion. You might share these questions and ask children to discuss these together with parents/carers while they are on mute.

#### Explore & respond

Many activities are easily adapted. You can ask parents to have simple items ready to hand.

#### Singing

You can play music using the screen share function, or show a video with words, and everyone can sing along at home.

#### Live your faith

Works well consistently without adaptation with a general principle that suggestions like contacting a friend/neighbour, etc. can also be done virtually/on the phone/via email, etc. A great way to finish the session as a 'challenge' and return to at the beginning of the next session.

## 6-12 September – Held together

### Gather

**What's going on?** – show an image by sharing your screen.

### Open the Word

Use the **Sounds/actions** way of presenting the story, or the story telling with action version for very young children

### Explore & respond

**Don't get mad, be forgiving** – you could demonstrate a balance scale

**Pairs quiz** – pair children up in different households, prepare simple questions to keep the pace going and their attention on whether their partner can answer the question

**Beauty from brokenness** – this will work with children tearing up their own paper and making something out of it

**Together again** – ask parents to have clothing or items that have pop studs velcro or button fastenings their child can use

### For very young children

**Storytelling** – model the actions before you start

**Play** – use play figures/buildings/cardboard boxes with buildings drawn on them

**Create** – everyone at home decorates strips of paper, then make a paper chain for the household – you could use the prayer after the chain is made

**Praise** – show a video of a burning candle, or have one showing on your screen as you play the music

## 13-19 September

### Gather

**You owe me** – you could use this as it is by screen sharing a picture, or you could set this up by asking the children to suggest an item they owe someone for, e.g. a computer game or other toy

### Open the Word

**Pulling faces** – allocate the roles to different families and enjoy watching each other as you read the story

### Explore & respond

**Heart chains** – adapt this by asking parents to help cut out seven heart shapes and join them together; or you could send the template to parents and ask them to print it out or prepare a folded piece of paper for their child to use

**Washed away** – use non-permanent pens on any washable plastic surface and wipe away with a damp tissue or cloth

## For very young children

**Storytelling** – no adaptation needed

**Play** – use a damp cloth and some small household objects to wipe clean

**Create** – there are apps for scratch art which could be used – better to suggest families explore this in their own time

**Praise** – a strip of fabric or paper could also be used

**Pray** – shake hands with other family members while saying prayer

### FROM 20 SEPTEMBER ONWARDS

From 20 September, we focus on a ‘nugget’ from Paul’s letters. The **Paul’s world sheet** in combination with the activities in Explore & respond section provide plenty for your online session. Download the sheets from the Open the Word section of the week’s resources. Don’t forget, there are resources to introduce Paul on the website. You could send out or show the [poster about Paul](#), or show the [short animation](#). You can read about life in [Philippi](#) and [Thessalonica](#) in two articles. If you think parents would be interested in reading them, do share the pdfs.

Ideally, send the parents copies of the **Paul’s world sheet**.

## 20-26 September

Adapt the **Life today** section on the Paul’s world sheet to set the scene.

### Open the Word

**Symbol starter** – adapt by asking the children to write a question mark or tick in the air to respond as you read the nugget from Paul’s letter

### Explore & respond

**Would you rather?** – this would work fine, keep microphones on so the children can respond, or use the reaction buttons

**Rough with the smooth** – ask children to touch the surfaces around them: floor, furniture, their clothing; or ask parents to gather a few items from around the house with different textures

**What should I do** – this could work with help from a parent/carer, but decide whether it’s suitable for the group as it will take some time. You could always suggest families make them at home afterwards

**Choose with God** – create the prayer together by inviting the children to suggest situations when it’s hard to make a decision. Have some prepared as well

## For very young children

**Storytelling** – no adaptation needed

**Play** – you could suggest this as an activity for the week

Suggestions for using Children & Young People resources in online groups September/October 2020

**Create** – encourage families to make a wiggly walking trail on the floor (using clothes/towels or soft toys) that they then walk down while they pray

**Praise** – no adaptation needed

**Pray** – name the children while they’re all walking on the wiggly path

## 27 September – 3 October

Adapt the **Life today** section on the Paul’s world sheet to set the scene.

### Open the Word

**Two sides of the story** – adapt by asking children to point at themselves when it’s ‘all about me’, and point away from themselves when it’s about ‘others’

### Explore & respond

**What would I do?** – ask the children to step to one side when it’s a Yes, and to the other side when it’s a ‘No’.

**Challenge chart** – children could use flattened cardboard boxes, or stick smaller sheets of paper together to make their chart

**Graffiti prayer wall** – instead of creating graffiti, children could choose small toys or other small object to represent situations to pray for, and as you pray for them, children hold the item up to the screen

## For very young children

**Storytelling** – screen share a postcard you’ve prepared

**Play** – demonstrate looking after a doll/teddy; perhaps he/she has fallen and hurt their knee; what would help? Children can look after their own toy, with a plaster/bandage or strip of cloth/paper

**Create** – you could suggest this as an activity to do together at home during the week

**Praise** – no adaptation needed

**Pray** – ask the children to make a heart shape with their hands

## 4-10 October

Adapt the **Life today** section on the Paul’s world sheet to set the scene.

### Open the Word

Use the **Moving story** option.

### Explore & respond

**Running together** – invite a parent and child or two children to work as a team, using paper or card to stand on rather than mats/material

**Knowing me** – this can be done with minimum materials, pen/pencil and paper, if necessary

**Focused on Jesus** – either draw the outline and complete it with children’s suggestions, or use a screen share facility

for them to add suggestions, or children draw their own outline and write/draw within it

**Prayer race** – invite each child to stand in turn in front of the screen so that the group can pray about them

### For very young children

**Storytelling** – no adaptation needed

**Play** – suggest simple, timed challenges, e.g. standing on one leg and counting to 10, touching head, shoulders, knees toes and back as quickly as they can, hopping for five seconds

**Create** – use packaging and other materials to make a medal

**Praise** – use a ribbon/ strip of fabric or paper

**Pray** – ask children to make a crown with their hands by the sides of their head while they pray

### 11-17 October

Adapt the **Life today** section on the Paul's world sheet to set the scene.

#### Open the Word

Adapt **Sounding out the story** by working with the children to agree on different sounds for the words, then all take part when they hear the words.

#### Explore & respond

**Peace meditation** – this would work best if children and a parent/carer get comfy together for this

**Snack notes** – children could use used food containers to decorate and write their note on a piece of paper

**Jars of rejoicing** – any container can be used, it doesn't have to have a lid. Used food containers or small packaging boxes would work well

**Worry prayers** – you could ask the children to use scrap paper, and give time for the children to think what they want to bring to God in prayer, then they tear of a bit and let it fall to show that they've brought their prayers to God.

**Rejoicing prayers** – you could agree on an action for 'Rejoice', as well.

### For very young children

**Storytelling** – no adaptation needed

**Play** – you could suggest making jigsaws as an activity for the family during the week

**Create** – share a playdough recipe for parents/carers to prepare in advance, or invite children to draw about something that worries them

**Praise** – you could ask the children to curl up in a ball and then uncurl suddenly, or ask parents/carers to have a blanket/duvet ready

**Pray** – children hold their playdough model/drawing towards the camera, and ask God to help them with this

worry. They could scrunch up the model/drawing afterward if they want.

### 18-24 October

We move to nuggets from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians today. You can read an article about life in [Thessalonica](#).

Adapt the **Life today** section on the Paul's world sheet to set the scene.

#### Open the Word

Use All about you, and ask children to wrap their arms around their own body, but when they hear 'you' to point at the screen and the others in the group.

#### Explore & respond

**Joy relay** – invite children to put up their hand, and if you select them, they say which person in the session they're passing on their faith to, then all do the action for joy they've agreed on

**Influencer cards** – children could make cards during the session, or start them when they're online and finish them later

**Influencer collage** – you could make a simple collage of images to share on screen with the group to talk about what makes these people good influencers

**Wristbands** – these could be made with paper if ribbon or fabric isn't available at home. Various types of packaging materials could be used

**Mirror prayers** – ask parents to provide a small mirror for the child to use, or to use a mobile phone camera in selfie mode

### For very young children

**Storytelling** – each child could cup their hands around their mouths and call out 'Good news!' and 'Jesus!' when the words Good news and Jesus are said; you could use a puppet/sock puppet/teddy to model calling out

**Play** – no adaptation needed

**Create** – set up your screen so that you can draw simple pictures for the children to copy, or do it line by line and hold up your paper to the camera; or ask parents/carers to draw something simple and see if the child can copy

**Praise** – children could dance to music

**Pray** – no adaptation needed

### 25-31 October

Use the **Life today** section on the Paul's world sheet to set the scene.

#### Open the Word

Use the **Peace at last** idea.

### Explore & respond

**Gentle balloons** – you could demonstrate this.

**Who cares for me?** – no adaptation needed

**Playing with oobleck** – you could demonstrate this, but be aware that children's attention span will be short if they're not playing with the oobleck themselves

**Caring vouchers** – no adaptation needed

**Feather prayers** – ask parents to find something very light for children to hold

### For very young children

**Storytelling** – no adaptation needed

**Play** – use soft and hard household objects/toys

**Create** – recycle packaging and other materials

**Praise** – use the soft and hard household objects/toys and pass them to family members present

**Pray** – invite each child to stand up or to come to the camera as you pray for them

## Online youth groups

### General points about the resources

#### Questions to discuss

These always work well with no adaptation needed.

#### Listen

The music tracks can be used for playing alongside an activity using the screenshare facility available on most video call platforms. If you show a video, you might want to have it prepared so that you don't all watch the adverts beforehand.

#### Live your faith

Works well consistently without adaptation with a general principle that suggestions like contacting a friend/neighbour, etc. can also be done virtually/on the phone/via email, etc. A great way to finish the session as a 'challenge' and return to at the beginning of the next session.

#### Picture pointers

These always work well with no adaptation needed, via a screen share.

### 6-12 September

#### Bible

**Warm up** – no kit

**Good advice** – simple kit

#### Connect

**Appreciate me** – screen share the film clip

**Speak up** – you could put the link in the Chat, or screen share

#### Explore

**Role play** – no kit; this would work in break out rooms, or just selecting a few young people at a time

**Fitting together:** kit, though requires printing at home

#### Pray

**Unfriended** – no kit

**Praying the psalm** – you could share the text of the psalm on screen

### 13-19 September

#### Bible

**Warm up** – no kit; the leader could ask for suggestions and number them at random, then ask young people to choose a number

**Surprising** – no kit

#### Connect

**Forgiving family** – screen share the film clip

**A gift to ourselves** – no kit

#### Explore

**Never have I ever** – no kit; you could award points or another system if this is something your group uses, or just use this activity without any rewards

**Gone!** – you may be able to demonstrate this yourself over the screen or show a video

#### Pray

**Lord's Prayer** – no kit

**Labyrinth** – you could ask young people to print off or draw a labyrinth or use an online version

### 20-26 September

#### Bible

**Warm up** – you can get the young people to show a preference using thumbs up or clapping hands (reaction buttons) or just thumbs up/thumbs down in real life

**Say it with emojis** – simple kit; screen share the emojis template

#### Connect

**Decisions, decisions** – put the link in Chat, or screen share the quote

**Your call** – screen share the clip

#### Explore

**Human sat navs** – you could share a map on your screen or ask young people to find it online

**Together on the journey** – no kit

#### Pray

**My manifesto** – no kit

**Stepping stones** – you could ask young people to write their own ideas and make stepping stones at home, or just spend time thinking about these things

### 27 September – 3 October

#### Bible

**Warm up** – you could use breakout rooms or the chat facility for this

**Spoken word** – no kit

#### Connect

**Giving it up for the greater good** – let the young people know about this in advance; you will need to just demonstrate the idea of giving the items away rather than putting them into a bag and taking them out again

**#Iwritetherules** – no kit

## Explore

**Working together** – could work if siblings or other family members are present

**Frame it** – needs quite a lot of kit so it may be better to choose other activities; or adapt to make a simpler frame

## Pray

**We feel joy** – no kit; just leave out the petals from this activity

**Scriptorium** – simple kit; screen share the link

## 4-10 October

### Bible

**Warm up** – they can do this on the video call screen!

**Listen up** – no kit

### Connect

**Too many hats** – ask young people in advance to bring along their own selection of hats

**Lyrical representation** – screen share the clip

### Explore

**Pass the personal parcel** – difficult to do online; choose other activities

**Sports Day** – you could send out a simple kit list and ask the young people to invent a game using them, then they all do it at the same time

### Pray

**Following the path** – simple kit; ask the young people to create this for themselves at home

**Prize prayer** – simple kit

## 11-17 October

### Bible

**Warm up** – screen share the clip

**Physical interpretation** – no kit needed

### Connect

**12% of a plan** – screen share the clip

**Inspirational meme** – simple kit

### Explore

**Keepsake recipes** – simple kit

**Dove of peace** – simple kit; screen share instructions

### Pray

**A prayer for you** – simple kit; play the track through a screen share

**Peace be with you** – no kit

## 18-24 October

### Bible

**Warm up** – no kit

**Word cloud** – simple kit

### Connect

**Creating a movement** – screen share the clip

**#myspiritualselfie** – simple kit

### Explore

**Global feast** – with notification, the young people could have prepared food for a show and tell to the others, before eating their snack

**Acting out** – you may need to use the chat to share with one young person at a time the activity on the card

### Pray

**Prayer web** – if your group enjoys making things, you could send out instructions in advance, perhaps making a smaller web, and everyone uses their own web during the activity

**Read all about it** – simple kit

## 25-31 October

### Bible

**Warm up** – no kit

**Underline** – simple kit

### Connect

**Making a difference** – screen share images and ask the young people to make their own notes at home

**Who cares?** – screen share the clip

### Explore

**Egg drop challenge** – needs quite a lot of kit and not much fun on your own; choose other activities

**Craftivism** – screen share the ideas

### Pray

**Heartbeat** – no kit

**Care package** – young people could make their own care package for their prayers